

**New Jersey State Board of Education
Minutes of the Meeting of the New Jersey State Board of Education
In the Conference Room on the First Floor
100 River View Executive Plaza
Trenton, NJ**

June 6, 2018

Presiding: Arcelio Aponte, President

Secretary: Lamont O. Repollet, Ed. D., Acting Commissioner

PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM

Mrs. Mary Beth Berry
Mrs. Elaine Bobrove
Mr. Jack Fornaro
Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Gazi
Mrs. Kathy Goldenberg
Dr. Nedd J. Johnson
Mr. Andrew Mulvihill
Dr. Joseph L. Ricca
Mrs. Sylvia Sylvia
Mrs. Fatimah Burnam-Watkins

ABSENT

Dr. Ronald Butcher
Dr. Ernest Lepore

CONVENING

State Board of Education President Arcelio Aponte convened the public meeting at 9:00 a.m. with the reading of the statement pertaining to the public session of the State Board meeting as it complies with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.

The Open Public Meetings Act was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meeting of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon.

In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the State Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted in the Department of Education, Secretary of State's Office and notice also having been given to the State House Press Corps, the Governor's Office and the State Board agenda subscribers.

And seeing there was a quorum, the meeting of June 6, 2018 was called to order.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Aponte then read the resolution pertaining to the executive session of the State Board meeting as it complies with the Open Public Meetings Act.

WHEREAS, in order to protect the personal privacy and to avoid situations wherein the public interest might be disserved, the Open Public Meetings Act permits public bodies to exclude the public from that portion of a meeting at which certain matters are discussed, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that consistent with the provision of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12.b, the State Board Education will now adjourn to executive session to discuss personnel and legal issues. The State Board immediately adjourned to executive session on June 6, 2018.

RECONVENING

State Board President Arcelio Aponte reconvened the open meeting at 10:15 a.m. with the reading of the resolution pertaining to the resumption of the public session of the State Board meeting as it complies with the Open Public Meetings Act.

WHEREAS, consistent with the provision of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12.b, the State Board will now adjourn from executive session to resume the open session of this meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

President Aponte requested a moment of silence to acknowledge the tragic school bus accident that took the lives of Paramus School District educator, Jennifer Williamson and student, Miranda Vargas as well as the horrific events that unfolded at Santa Fe High School.

Following the moment of silence State Board President requested that the policy committee review the school transportation regulations for possible policy changes. Mary Beth Gazi, chair of the policy committee requested a presentation on School Transportation at the July 11 meeting of the State Board provided by members of the staff from the Departments of Education and Motor Vehicles which will focus on the transportation requirements including how the rules are bifurcated between the two agencies and a discussion on recommended amendments to the regulations.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board members approved the minutes of the public meeting conducted on May 2, 2018. State Board member Joe Ricca abstained from voting on the minutes of the meeting on May 2, 2018.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Announcements

Public Testimony

President Aponte stated public testimony would not be held today at 2 pm. He also stated that the State Board planned to use this public testimony session to receive feedback from members of the public on what they would like to see included in the Paterson School District Local Control Transition Plan. He further stated that no one was scheduled to testify.

President Aponte stated that public testimony would not be held in July as there are no topics scheduled.

Resolution to Honor Karan Chauhan

President Aponte welcomed Karan Chauhan the 2017-2018 permanent student representative to the State Board of Education. Karan Chauhan is a senior from Parsippany-Troy Hills High School in Morris County. Karan also introduced and thanked his mother Basudha Chauhan for her support and guidance this year. In his last address before the State Board, Karan spoke about the skills he has honed this year. Karan also thanked the State Board members and the Commissioner for the positive experience as the state board student representative.

Karan introduced fellow students from Parsippany-Troy Hills High School, Jacqueline Pascale, Amanda Rovner and Brittani Vecchia who provided a brief presentation to the State Board members about switching from Styrofoam plates to cardboard trays.

The State Board members approved a resolution congratulating and thanking Karan Chauhan for his service. On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board approved the following resolution read by State Board member Kathy Goldenberg:

RESOLUTION FOR KARAN CHAUHAN

WHEREAS, Karan Chauhan, a student at Parsippany Troy-Hills High School in Morris County, has served with dedication as the student representative to the New Jersey State Board of Education from July 2017 to June 2018; and

WHEREAS, Karan has executed his duties as the State Board's liaison to the student community with commitment, interest and enthusiasm; and has been an exceptional representative of both the New Jersey Association of Student Councils and Parsippany Troy-Hills High School;

WHEREAS, Karan actively participated in State Board meetings and gave timely, progressive and thought-provoking presentations that were articulate, analytical and beneficial to the State Board members; and

WHEREAS, Karan's school career demonstrates that he is an accomplished student of academics and his leadership activities and community service on the local and state level demonstrate that others have confidence in him and value his contributions; and

WHEREAS, Karan is an intelligent, affable, focused young man who sets long-range goals and pursues them with eagerness, dedication and an extraordinarily high level of maturity; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the members of the New Jersey State Board of Education and Acting Commissioner of Education Lamont O. Repollet extend their sincere congratulations and appreciation to Karan Chauhan for a job very well done and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Acting Commissioner of Education wish to acknowledge Karan Chauhan's personal and academic excellence, as well as his outstanding leadership qualities, and wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

Selection of the State Board Nominating Committee

Mary Beth Gazi, member of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of candidates as: Arcelio Aponte for president and Kathy Goldenberg for vice president. The vote will occur next month. State Board members Fatimah Burnam-Watkins and Ernest Lepore also participated on the committee.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

Camden City School District Annual Report

Paymon Rouhanifard, Superintendent of the State Operated School District of the City of Camden Public Schools provided his annual report to the State Board of Education. His report focused on three main topics: Student Achievement, Operations and Facilities.

Jersey City School District Annual Report

Marcia Lyles, Superintendent of the State Operated School District of the Jersey City Public Schools provided her annual report to the State Board of Education. Her report focused on three main topics: Student Achievement, Operations and Facilities.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

**Items scheduled for a vote are marked with an asterisk.*

A. Commissioner

- Adopted the organizational structure for the State Department of Education at N.J.A.C. 6A:2-1.1 et seq., pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-3(1).

***B. Appointment(s)**

- There were no appointments.

***C. Certification of School Districts**

- Certified for a period of three years, the following school district(s) recommended by the Commissioner, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-14a and b.

Certified School District	County
Northfield	Atlantic
Berlin Borough	Camden
Gibbsboro	Camden
Lower Township	Cape May
West Orange	Essex
Kingsway	Gloucester
Swedesboro-Woolwich	Gloucester
Harrison	Hudson
Weehawken	Hudson
Dunellen	Middlesex
Middlesex Borough	Middlesex
Old Bridge	Middlesex
Piscataway	Middlesex
South Plainfield	Middlesex
Rumson-Fair Haven Reg	Monmouth
Sea Girt	Monmouth
Morris School District	Morris
South Bound Brook	Somerset
Byram Township	Sussex
Newton	Sussex
Stanhope	Sussex
Franklin Township	Warren
Phillipsburg	Warren

***D. State Board Calendar of Meeting Dates**

- The State Board adopted the following revised resolution pertaining to the annual calendar of 2018-2019 meeting dates of the State Board of Education pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:1-2.2, N.J.S.A. 18A:4-7 and 10:4-6 et seq.

RESOLUTION
ANNUAL CALENDAR OF STATE BOARD MEETING/PUBLIC TESTIMONY DATES

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:4-7 states that, the State Board of Education shall hold public meetings at least once each month at such times as its rules may prescribe and at such other times and such places within the state as in its judgment may be necessary, but no meeting may commence later than 8:00 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:1-2.2 requires that such meetings be held at such time, place, and on such dates as established by the State Board, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., Open Public Meetings Act, and notice of such meetings shall be made in a manner consistent with the law; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the State Board establishes the following dates for its monthly business meetings and public hearings for the 2018-2019 school year, and directs that a copy of the dates be sent to the Governor, the Secretary of State, the news media, the county superintendents, and the state board agenda subscribers.

PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETINGS/PUBLIC TESTIMONY SESSIONS 2018-2019

July 11 (1:00 pm)	November 7	March 6
August 1	December 5	March 20*
September 5	December 12*	April 3
October 3	January 2	May 1
	January 16*	June 5
	February 6	
	February 20*	

Open Topic Sessions – January, May and September

*Alternate Board Meeting Days in the event of Snow Cancellations

Notice of changes in the above will be made in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

***E. Religious Holidays Calendar Resolution**

- Adopted the following revised resolution pertaining to the annual calendar of religious holidays for the 2018-2019 school year as established at N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3(j), pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-14-16.

RESOLUTION
The List of Religious Holidays Permitting Student Absence from School

WHEREAS, according to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-14 through 16 and N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3(j), regarding student absence from school because of religious holidays, the Commissioner of Education, with the approval of the State Board of Education, is charged with the responsibility of prescribing such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of the law; and

WHEREAS, the law provides that:

1. Any student absent from school because of a religious holiday may not be deprived of any award or of eligibility or opportunity to compete for any award because of such absence;
2. Students who miss a test or examination because of absence on a religious holiday must be given the right to take an alternate test or examination;
3. To be entitled to the privileges set forth above, the student must present a written excuse signed by a parent or person standing in place of a parent;
4. Any absence because of a religious holiday must be recorded in the school register or in any group or class attendance record as an excused absence;
5. Such absence must not be recorded on any transcript or application or employment form or on any similar form; and
6. The Commissioner, with the approval of the State Board of Education, is required to:
 - (a) prescribe such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this act; and
 - (b) prepare a list of religious holidays on which it shall be mandatory to excuse a student. The list, however, is to be a minimum list. Boards of education, at their discretion, may add other days to the list for the schools of their districts; and

WHEREAS, although the New Jersey Department of Education makes every attempt to ensure the accuracy of the dates using the lunar, Gregorian and Julian calendars; and

WHEREAS, dates within this resolution may not be fixed before the State Board adopts the annual calendar and may require additional revision; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, the State Board of Education permits the Commissioner of Education, after annual adoption by the State Board of Education, to revise the dates provided in list of religious holidays.

WHEREAS, the district board of education has the right to add any bona fide religious holiday to the list for its own schools; now therefore be it,

RESOLVED that the State Board of Education adopts the following list of religious holidays for the 2018 - 2019 school year:

2018-19 School Year Observances

July 2018

Date	Observance
July 10	Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha'i)
July 22	Tish'a B'Av (Jewish)
July 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guru Purnima Asalha Puja Day (Buddhist)

August 2018

Date	Observance
August 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fast in Honor of the Holy Mother of Lord Jesus (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Lammas (Christian and Wicca)
August 6	Transfiguration of the Lord (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
August 13-15	Obon (Buddhist)
August 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Catholic Christian) Dormition of the Theotokos (Orthodox Christian) Naga Panchami (Hindu)*¹
August 15-27	Onam (Hindu)*
August 19-24	Hajj Day (Islam)*
August 20	Yawm al-Arafa (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
August 20-21	Eid al-Adha (Islam)*
August 21	Eid al-Adha (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
August 25	Ulambana (Buddhist)
August 29	Raksha Bandhan (Hindu)* Eid-e-Ghadeer (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*

September 2018

Date	Observance
September 1	Ecclesiastical Year begins (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
September 2	Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)*
September 7	His Holiness Sakya Trizin's Birthday (Buddhist)
September 7-14	Paryushana (Jain)

¹ * Disclaimer: New Jersey Department of Education has made every attempt to ensure the accuracy of the dates. The information has been verified through the use of various sources and some dates may vary due to the lunar, Gregorian and Julian calendars.

Date	Observance
September 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nativity of Mary (Christian) Nativity of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
September 9-11	Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)
September 10	Feast of Trumpets (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
September 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Year – Hijra (Islam) 1st Muharram (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)
September 12	Muharram (Islamic New Year)
September 12-20	Ashara Mubarak (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
September 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yom Kippur (Jewish) Day of Atonement (Christian, Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
September 12-23	Ganesh Chaturthi (Hindu)*
September 20	Yawm Aashura (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
September 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mabon (Wicca/Pagan) Ostara (Wicca/Pagan)
September 23 - 30	Sukkot (Jewish)
September 24-30	Feast of Tabernacles (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
September 27	The Elevation of the Holy Cross (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
September 30- October 2	Sh'mini Atzeret (Jewish)

October 2018

Date	Observance
October 1	Last Great Day (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
October 2	Simchat Torah (Jewish)
October 9-17	Navaratri (Hindu)*
October 18	Dussehra (Hindu)*
October 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installation of the Scriptures as Guru Granth (Sikh) Birth of B'ab (Baha'i)
October 30	Chehlum Imam Husain (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*

November 2018

Date	Observance
November 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Saints' Day (Christian) Samhain-Beltane (Wicca)
November 2	All Souls' Day (Christian)

Date	Observance
November 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Saints' Day (Christian) Samhain-Beltane (Wicca)
November 7	Diwali (Hindu, Jain and Sikh)*
November 8	Goverdhan Puja (Hindu)*
November 10	Birth of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
November 15	Nativity Fast begins (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
November 20	Maulid al-Nabi (Islam and Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
November 21	The Presentation of the Theotokos to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
November 23	Guru Nanak Dev Sahib Birthday (Sikh)
November 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guru Tegh Bahadur Martyrdom (Sikh) Urus-Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
November 26	Day of Covenant (Baha'i)
November 28	Ascension of 'Abdu'l Baha (Baha'i)

December 2018

Date	Observance
December 2	First Sunday of Advent (Christian)
December 2-10	Hanukkah (Jewish)
December 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bodhi Day (Buddhist) Immaculate Conception (Christian)
December 12	Milad Imam-uz-Zamaan (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
December 21	Yule (Wicca and Christian)
December 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas (Christian) The Nativity of Christ (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
December 26	Zarathosht Diso (Zoroastrian)
December 28	Milad Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*

January 2019

Date	Observance
January 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gantan-sai (Shinto) Mary, Mother of God - Catholic Christian
January 3 through 10	Holy Convocation (Church of God and Saints of Christ)
January 5	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Sahib (Sikh)
January 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feast of Epiphany (Christian) Feast of Theophany (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Nativity of Christ (Armenian Orthodox)

Date	Observance
January 7	Feast of the Nativity (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
January 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maghi (Sikh) Bodhi Day (Buddhist)
January 14	Makar Sankranti and Pongal (Hindu)*
January 20	World Religion Day (Baha'i)
January 21	Tu B'shvat (Jewish)
January 28	Chinese/Lunar New Year (Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist)

February 2019

Date	Observance
February 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imbolic-Candlemas (Wicca and Christian); The Presentation of Our Lord to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
February 8	Nirvana Day (Buddhist)
February 10	Vasant Panchami (Hindu)*
February 15	Nirvana Day (Jain)
February 21	Jonah's Passover (Eastern Orthodox Church)
February 26-March 1	Intercalary Days (Baha'i)

March 2019

Date	Observance
March 4	Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)*
March 5	Shrove Tuesday (Christian)
March 6	Ash Wednesday (Christian)
March 11	Clean Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
March 13	L. Ron Hubbard's Birthday (Church of Scientology)
March 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ostara (Wicca) Mabon (Wicca/Pagan Northern and Southern Hemispheres)
March 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purim (Jewish) Holi (Hindu)* Nowruz (Zoroastrian) Lord's Evening Meal (Christian, Jehovah's Witness) Ayyam al Beez (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
March 22-24	Hola Mohalla (Sikh)*
March 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Annunciation of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian) The Annunciation of the Virgin Mary (Christian) Urus – Syedna Taher Saifuddin (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*

Date	Observance
March 28	Khordad Sal (Zoroastrian)

April 2019

Date	Observance
April 2	Yawm al-Mab'ath (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
April 3	Lailat al Miraj (Islam)*
April 5	Souramana Yugadi (Hindu)*
April 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God) Chandramana Yugadi (Hindu)*
April 8	Buddha's Birthday/Buddha Day-Buddha Day*
April 13-20	<p>Memorial of the Feast of the Lord's Passover (Church of God and Saints of Christ)</p> <p>Passover/Days of Unleavened Bread (Church of God and Saints of Christ) March 31-April 6</p>
April 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Palm Sunday Ramnavami (Hindu)*
April 17	Mahavir Jayanti (Jain)
April 18	Holy Thursday (Christian)
April 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passover (United Church of God) Holy Friday (Christian) Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)*
April 19-21	Theravadin New Year (Buddhist)
April 20-26	Days of Unleavened Bread (Philadelphia Church of God)
April 20-27	Passover (Jewish)
April 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God) Lazarus Saturday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easter (Christian) Palm Sunday (Eastern Orthodox Christian) First Day of Ridvan (Baha'i) Lailat al Bara'ah (Islam)*
April 22	Easter Monday (Christian)
April 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 11th Panchen Lama's Birthday (Buddhist) Holy Thursday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holy Friday (Eastern Orthodox Christian) The Last Friday of The Great Lent (Eastern Orthodox Church)
April 28	Easter (Eastern Orthodox Christian)

Date	Observance
April 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ninth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i) Bright Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)

May 2019

Date	Observance
May 1	Beltane (Wicca)
May 2	Twelfth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
May 6-June 4	Ramadan (Islam)
May 9	Yom Ha'Azmout (Jewish)
May 18	Visakha Puja (Buddhist)
May 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lag B'Omer (Jewish) Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i) Shahada – Amirul Mumineen (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
May 26-27	Laylatul Qadr (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
May 27	Milad Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
May 29	Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
May 30	Ascension of Our Lord (Christian)
May 31	Aakhir Jumo'a (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*

June 2019

Date	Observance
June 1	Laylat as-Qadr (Islam)*
June 4	Eid al Fitr (Islam and Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
June 9	Pentecost (Christian)
June 9-10	Shavuot (Jewish)
June 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib (Sikh) Pentecost (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
June 21	Litha (Wicca)
June 24	Fast of the Holy Apostles (Eastern Orthodox Christian)

WORK SESSION

There was no work session.

NEW BUSINESS

President Aponte stated that former State Board member Maud Dahme was in attendance at today's meeting.

President Aponte stated that the State Board received a petition for rulemaking request from Ms. Linda Bolger on March 23, 2018 requesting that the State Board of Education amend the rules pertaining to

certification to include a third option for the entity that issues a Water Safety Instructor Certificate required for a swimming and water safety endorsement to an instructional certificate.

President Aponte stated that the petition was reviewed and it was determined that the request should be denied because while the petitioner states that the FAST Swim Program is comparable in benefits and achievements to the American Red Cross and YMCA certificate programs, which are the two certificate issuers authorized under the regulations, the Department does not possess the expertise to ascertain whether the petitioner's FAST Swim Program is comparable to the American Red Cross or YMCA programs. The petitioner did not submit evidence that the FAST Swim Program meets or exceeds the components of the currently required programs.

President Aponte stated that a notice of action advising that this petition is denied was filed with the OAL May 21, 2018. President Aponte stated that a copy of the notice of action will be mailed to the Petitioner as soon as possible.

Vice President Andrew Mulvihill inquired as to the status of the issuance of new charters and requests for charter school expansion.

State Board member Kathy Goldenberg inquired as to when committees would report out again.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its June 6, 2018, public meeting at 12:39 p.m.

Dr. Lamont O. Repollet, Commissioner
Secretary, N.J. State Board of Education